

TEXT OF SPEECH BY THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO
THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, DATO MOHD. GHAZALI ISMAIL,
AT THE NINTH ANNUAL STUDENTS' SAFE CYCLING RALLY 1970,
ORGANISED BY THE JUNIOR SAFETY FIRST COUNCIL, SINGAPORE,
ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1970, AT 5.40 P.M.

Two years ago, I attended a similar function of this nature, and I am indeed pleased to have this opportunity of addressing you once again.

This rally has served a very useful purpose in reminding our school children of the need to be safety conscious when using their bicycles on the road. Today, more so than before, the cyclist has to contend with an ever increasing number of motorised vehicles on the road with the consequence that he is almost literally crowded off the main busy thoroughfares in the city, and wherever possible, cyclists' paths have to be provided for their safety.

In spite of the rising dangers to cyclists, travelling by bicycle is still a popular and economic means of transport; and not a few school children, especially those in the suburban and rural areas, ride bicycles to and from schools. These young cyclists must therefore be aware of the safety rules pertaining to safe cycling and proper maintenance of their machines. For example, a bicycle with ineffective brakes is a death-trap to its rider and a potential danger to other road users. Equally important are good habits of cycling, for instance: to signal when stopping or turning or to ride along a bicycle path provided for the purpose. You have demonstrated your awareness of safety rules for cycling at this rally and I urge you to remember them whenever you are cycling along our busy thoroughfare.

You may be interested to know that last year the figure for road deaths caused to pedal cyclists was 29 out of whom three were juvenile cyclists. This figure may appear small and insignificant but there is no room for complacency as a little carelessness might quickly lead to a tragic rise in this direction. Moreover, in the same year official figures for serious injuries inflicted on cyclists were 62 juvenile and 189 adult cases while the slightly injured numbered 138 and 622 for juveniles and adults respectively. In addition, there were the usual unreported cases. So, the total picture drawn is not one to be dismissed lightly.

Few can disagree that the Junior National Safety First Council is doing excellent work in promoting safety consciousness among school children; and this afternoon's rally, which is the ninth of the series, will undoubtedly2/-

will undoubtedly stimulate a greater awareness of safe cycling on the roads. Some of you may perhaps recall that about a fortnight ago, I announced to the Press that a nation-wide campaign on safe cycling would be mounted from October 26 to November 9. I am sure that all your members will be playing an active role in this forthcoming campaign to help ensure the safety of all cyclists, young and old, on the roads of Singapore today.

SEPTEMBER 5, 1970.

(Time issued: 1400 hours)
